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22 June 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Representatives Burlison and Robinson,
21 June 1979 [redacted]

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1. The DCI, [redacted] Fred Hitz and I met with Representatives Burlison and Robinson and Staff members Jim Bush and Marty Faga. The meeting took place in the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) area of the Capitol. It began as scheduled at 1230 hours and lasted approximately one-half an hour. [redacted]

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2. Mr. Burlison began by outlining when a House Intelligence Authorization Bill might be considered on the floor. He felt that there was a possibility, admittedly not large, that it could be considered on Friday, but most likely would be pushed over to next week. He also noted that the Appropriations Committee markup, which both he and Mr. Robinson are involved in, has been set for Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. [redacted]

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3. The DCI started by mentioning that he wished to express concern on one principal point. He noted that in the formulation of our imagery program it had been changed several times prior to its being presented to the Congress. It has been changed now, rather substantially, and he expressed concern that if it was changed further in the appropriation process some critical capability might be lost. Mr. Burlison interjected, at this point, that he understood the DCI to be saying he was concerned that [redacted] might be lost in the appropriation process, as well as the ability to proceed with [redacted]. Mr. Burlison went on to say that he and Mr. Robinson were adamant that [redacted] be appropriated and they were fearful that, if it was not appropriated, next year they would be facing proposals to buy [redacted] or both. He felt that as long as he and Mr. Robinson were together their views could prevail in appropriation. Mr. Robinson added he was relatively optimistic. He felt they had the votes to sustain their actions in appropriation and observed the Staff may need to be overridden in its recommendation, but they are prepared to do so. [redacted]

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4. Mr. Burlison then pointed out that it was not the HPSCI's intent to preclude moving forward with either [redacted] [this appeared to me to be a clear invitation to appeal the restrictive House language]. [redacted]

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5. The DCI then turned his attention to [redacted] and in effect used the arguments as presented in our draft appeal. He then asked Dr. [redacted] if he wished to add anything. [redacted]

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6. [redacted] observed we were further along than when we first began testifying; that we will certainly look at [redacted] [redacted] He felt it was doable, but at some additional cost. He also stated [redacted] looks doable, and concluded with the hope that we could go ahead this year, noting that his fear of the delay introduced by HPSCI would be added to by the House Appropriations Committee, and the system would be delayed a full year. [redacted]

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7. The DCI then noted that pushing initiatives out aggravates the bow-wave problem. It could create a "bow hump" and raises the specter of slipping [redacted] to the 1990s. Mr. Burlison responded that he was sensitive to the problems that delays introduced. He added that his Committee too was concerned about the bow wave and he also recognized that recycling us through the Executive Branch again also introduced additional roadblocks. [redacted]

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8. Mr. Robinson asked the DCI if he wanted to address the question of [redacted] The DCI announced that the President had signed the budget amendment. Mr. Burlison then said that he did not foresee great problems. The DCI asked me if it was, in effect, a no-cost amendment. I acknowledged that it was, with Defense providing the funding. Mr. Burlison then stated there could be a jurisdictional problem depending on the source of funds. Mr. Bush said preliminary inquiries with the House Armed Services Committee indicated they had no problems if we are [redacted]

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10. Mr. Faga asked what the impact would be if [] were not funded by appropriations. [] began addressing that point, however, a quorum call interrupted and the meeting terminated with the DCI urging the member's support for the amendments added to the Senate Authorization Bill. The DCI then thanked the members for their time and attention. []

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